

# CMS – Regulation Station

## K14/15 – Interior Finish

The requirements for interior finish for existing Healthcare occupancies is found in the 2000 edition, Life Safety Code (LSC), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 at 19.3.3.1 which requires compliance with the requirements of Section 10.2 Interior Finish.

Recently, we have received several inquiries concerning how this requirement applies to existing facilities and whether documentation of existing interior finish is required by this edition of the LSC.

The NFPA has issued clarifying language concerning this subject at section 10.2.1 Exception No. 2 which states “Approved existing installations of materials applied directly to the surface of walls and ceilings in a total thickness of less than 1/28 in. (0.9 mm) shall be permitted to remain in use and the provisions of 10.2.2 through 10.2.3.5.3 shall not apply.”

This language should minimize the burden on existing facilities which may or may not have documentation for previously installed interior finish, as this documentation was not required by previous editions of the LSC. Previous LSC language may have created a situation in which a facility may be in compliance with the interior finish requirements, but does not have documentation of the flame spread classification of the installed interior finish.

Generally these finishes are renewed on a regular basis when the facility updates and refreshes it's interior and can obtain the needed documentation at that time.